

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 110) congratulating the University of North Carolina Tar Heels basketball team for winning the 2008-2009 NCAA men's basketball national championship.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 110) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 110

Whereas on April 6, 2009, the University of North Carolina defeated Michigan State University 89-72 to win the 2008-2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) men's basketball national championship;

Whereas the University of North Carolina was the consensus preseason number 1 basketball team in the Nation;

Whereas the University of North Carolina Tar Heels were saddled with a tremendous amount of pressure to get to the NCAA Final Four and win the national championship in 2009;

Whereas after the Tar Heels' 0-2 record to start the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) regular season, the team finished with a record of 13-3 and won 13 out of their last 14 games in conference;

Whereas the Tar Heels were the 2008-2009 ACC regular season conference champions;

Whereas the University of North Carolina's Tyler Hansbrough became the ACC's all-time leading scorer;

Whereas the University of North Carolina's Tyler Hansbrough and Ty Lawson were selected to the 2008-2009 All-Atlantic Coast Conference (All-ACC) first team;

Whereas Tyler Hansbrough became the first player in league history to be unanimously selected 4 times to the All-ACC first team;

Whereas the University of North Carolina's Danny Green was selected to the 2008-2009 All-ACC third team and the All-ACC defensive team;

Whereas the University of North Carolina's Ed Davis was selected to the All-ACC rookie team;

Whereas entering into the 2008-2009 NCAA College Basketball Championship, President Barack Obama picked the Tar Heels to win the championship title;

Whereas the University of North Carolina beat each of Radford University, Louisiana State University, Gonzaga University, and the University of Oklahoma by 12 points or more to win the South Division and reach the Final Four for the second straight year;

Whereas Ty Lawson was named the South Division most valuable player;

Whereas with their victory over the University of Oklahoma, the Tar Heels became the first team in NCAA Tournament history to reach 100 tournament wins;

Whereas several media outlets, including ESPN and CBS, reported that more than 60,000 fans in attendance at the final tournament game would be cheering for Michigan State University;

Whereas the 55 points the University of North Carolina scored in the first half of the championship game broke the all-time first half scoring record for any team in the history of the NCAA tournament;

Whereas the University of North Carolina's Wayne Ellington and Deon Thompson played exceptionally well in the first half of the championship game to push the lead to 21 points;

Whereas the University of North Carolina withstood Michigan State University's late surge and pushed the lead back to 19 points with less than 3 minutes remaining in the game;

Whereas the University of North Carolina's Wayne Ellington was named the Final Four most valuable player;

Whereas Ty Lawson's 8 steals set the record for the most steals in a NCAA championship game;

Whereas the 2008-2009 championship was the University of North Carolina's fifth national championship in school history;

Whereas the 2008-2009 championship was Coach Roy Williams' second national championship since taking over as head coach of the University of North Carolina men's basketball team; and

Whereas with the victory over Michigan State University, the University of North Carolina tied the University of Kentucky for the all-time winningest program in NCAA Division 1 men's basketball history: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of North Carolina for winning the 2008-2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association men's basketball national championship;

(2) recognizes the achievement of the players, coaches, students, and staff of the University of North Carolina whose perseverance and dedication to excellence helped propel the men's basketball team to win the championship; and

(3) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the chancellor of the University of North Carolina, H. Holden Thorp;

(B) the athletic director of the University of North Carolina, Dick Baddour; and

(C) the head coach of the University of North Carolina men's basketball team, Roy Williams.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF WORLD MALARIA DAY

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 18, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 18) supporting the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day, and reaffirming United States leadership and support for efforts to combat malaria.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, this Saturday, I will join individuals and organizations around the world in marking World Malaria Day. This day is an opportunity to celebrate the progress that has been made by the

international community in raising awareness of an invisible killer and the need to significantly reduce malaria deaths. Over the last decade, there has been a remarkable scaling up of efforts to prevent and treat this disease. In some places, such as the island of Zanzibar or the country of Rwanda, malaria prevalence has dropped significantly in just a few years. These success stories are a testament to the kind of positive difference we can make with robust and targeted health assistance.

I am especially proud of the leadership of the United States in this regard, particularly through the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI). Since its launch in 2005, PMI has purchased almost 13 million artemisinin-based combination therapies, protected over 17 million people through spraying campaigns, and distributed over 6 million insecticide-treated bed nets. In addition, the United States has worked multilaterally with international partners to fight this disease, through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The Global Fund has provided roughly 74 million malaria patients with artemisinin-based combination therapies and distributed almost 70 million bed nets.

In addition to commemorating how far we have come, World Malaria Day is also an opportunity to recognize how far we still need to go. This disease is completely preventable and treatable, and yet more than 40 percent of the world's population is still at risk of contracting malaria and nearly 1 million people, the majority of them children, die from malaria each year. According to the World Health Organization, a child still dies every 30 seconds from malaria. Nearly 90 percent of those deaths occur in Africa. Moreover, malaria often coexists with HIV and neglected tropical diseases, and it causes great risks to efforts to promote child and maternal health.

In light of those realities, we must recommit to sustained international, national, and local leadership to end malaria deaths. I am pleased that Congress last year committed over the next 5 years to combat malaria in the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde U.S. Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria Act. We must now deliver on that commitment, including maintaining our support for multilateral efforts of the Global Fund. At the same time, we cannot afford to address malaria in isolation; our efforts must be part of a comprehensive, integrated and sustainable approach to global health. In particular, I believe we need to invest more in strengthening local health systems that can deliver effective, safe, high-quality interventions when and where they are needed and ensure access to reliable health information and effective disease surveillance.

I commend the thousands of Americans and the many organizations that have taken up this cause and continue to work to fight malaria and save lives.

On Saturday, we should join them in committing to work toward a malaria-free future. To that end and in support of the World Malaria Day, I have introduced a resolution with Senators ISAKSON, BINGAMAN, DURBIN, CARDIN, WICKER, BROWNBACK, and CANTWELL reaffirming U.S. leadership for efforts to combat malaria. I hope our colleagues will support this resolution and, more importantly, join us over the coming months and years in working toward this year's theme: "counting malaria out."

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 18) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 18

Whereas April 25 of each year is recognized internationally as World Malaria Day and in the United States as Malaria Awareness Day;

Whereas, despite malaria being completely preventable and treatable and the fact that malaria was eliminated in the United States over 50 years ago, more than 40 percent of the world's population is still at risk of contracting malaria;

Whereas, according to the World Health Organization, nearly 1,000,000 people die from malaria each year, the vast majority of whom are children under the age of 5 in Africa;

Whereas malaria greatly affects child health, with a child dying from malaria roughly every 30 seconds and nearly 3,000 children dying from malaria every day;

Whereas malaria poses great risks to maternal health, causing complications during delivery, anemia, and low birth weights, with estimates by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention that malaria infection causes 400,000 cases of severe maternal anemia and from 75,000 to 200,000 infant deaths annually in sub-Saharan Africa;

Whereas HIV infection increases the risk and severity of malarial illness, and malaria increases the viral load in HIV-positive people, which can lead to increased transmission of HIV and more rapid disease progression, with substantial public health implications;

Whereas in malarial regions, many people are co-infected with malaria and one or more of the neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) such as hookworm and schistosomiasis, which causes a pronounced exacerbation of anemia and several adverse health consequences;

Whereas the malnutrition and chronic illness that result from childhood malaria leads to increased absenteeism in school and perpetuates cycles of poverty;

Whereas an estimated 90 percent of deaths from malaria occur in Africa, and the Roll Back Malaria Partnership estimates that malaria costs countries in Africa \$12,000,000,000 in lost economic productivity each year;

Whereas the World Health Organization estimates that malaria accounts for 40 percent of healthcare expenditures in high-burden countries, demonstrating that effective,

long-term malaria control is inextricably linked to the strength of health systems;

Whereas heightened efforts over recent years to prevent and treat malaria are currently saving lives;

Whereas the progress and funding to control malaria has increased ten-fold since 2000, in large part due to funding under the President's Malaria Initiative (a United States Government initiative designed to cut malaria deaths in half in target countries in sub-Saharan Africa), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the World Bank, and new financing by other donors;

Whereas the President's Malaria Initiative has purchased almost 13,000,000 artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACT), protected over 17,000,000 people through spraying campaigns, and distributed over 6,000,000 insecticide-treated bed nets, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has distributed 70,000,000 bed nets to protect families from malaria and provided 74,000,000 malaria patients with ACTs, and the World Bank's Booster Program is scheduled to commit approximately \$500,000,000 in International Development Association funds for malaria control in Africa;

Whereas public and private partners are developing effective and affordable drugs to treat malaria, with more than 23 types of malaria vaccines in development;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, vector control, or the prevention of malaria transmission via anopheles mosquitoes, which includes a combination of methods such as insecticide-treated bed nets, indoor residual spraying, and source reduction (larval control), has been shown to reduce severe morbidity and mortality due to malaria in endemic regions;

Whereas the impact of malaria efforts have been documented in numerous regions, such as in Zanzibar, where malaria prevalence among children shrank from 20 percent to less than 1 percent between 2005 and 2007, and in Rwanda, where malaria cases and deaths appeared to decline rapidly after a large-scale distribution of bed nets and malaria treatments in 2006; and

Whereas a malaria-free future will rely on consistent international, national, and local leadership and a comprehensive approach addressing the range of health, development, and economic challenges facing developing countries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Malaria Awareness Day, including the achievable target of ending malaria deaths by 2015;

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe Malaria Awareness Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to raise awareness and support to save the lives of those affected by malaria;

(3) reaffirms the goals and commitments to combat malaria in the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-293);

(4) commends the progress made by anti-malaria programs, including the President's Malaria Initiative and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria;

(5) reaffirms United States support for and contribution toward the achievement of the targets set by the Roll Back Malaria Partnership Global Malaria Action plan;

(6) encourages fellow donor nations to maintain their support and honor their funding commitments for malaria programs worldwide;

(7) urges greater integration of United States and international health programs targeting malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis,

neglected tropical diseases, and basic child and maternal health; and

(8) commits to continued United States leadership in efforts to reduce global malaria deaths, especially through strengthening health care systems that can deliver effective, safe, high-quality interventions when and where they are needed and assure access to reliable health information and effective disease surveillance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 61, the nomination of Ladda Tammy Duckworth to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs; that the nomination be confirmed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that no further motions be in order; that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the Record; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Ladda Tammy Duckworth, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Public and Intergovernmental Affairs).

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 1664

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 1664 has been received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1664) to amend the executive compensation provisions of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to prohibit unreasonable and excessive compensation and compensation not based on performance standards.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2009

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, April 23; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the